

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.11

US\$2.29
CAN \$2.79



SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

GIANT 48 PAGES

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

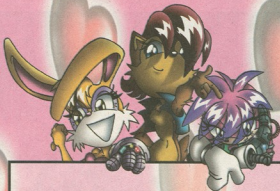
HEY!

WHOSE COMIC IS
THIS ANYWAY?

EVRR!

Butt-Ugly Rat
Productions





"PRINCESS SALLY: ASCENSION"

*Illustrations by Jim Valentino
with lettering by Vickie Williams*

"HERSHEY: SOLO"

Illustrations and lettering by Ken Penders

"LUPE: FAMILY"

*Illustrations by Colleen Doran
with lettering by Vickie Williams*

"BUNNIE RABBOT: UPGRADE"

*Illustrations by FRY
with lettering by Jeff Powell*

"JULIE-SU: SHADOWS"

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SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, No. 11, 1999. Published quarterly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkelt, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$2.29 in the U.S.; \$2.79 in Canada. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sonic The Hedgehog, Sonic Underground and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA. © 1999 SEGA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada.

GR
IV
RE
LS
S!



PRINCESS Sally in ASCENSION



ALL MY LIFE
I *NEVER*
HAD A CHOICE.

I WAS BORN HEIR
TO THE *THRONE*
OF ACORN AND
TAUGHT TO BE A
QUEEN
FROM DAY ONE.

HAVING RECENTLY DISCOVERED
I HAVE A *BROTHER*, I FOUND
I WAS NO LONGER CHARGED
WITH CONTINUING THE *LINE*
OF *SUCCESSION*.

HOWEVER, *ELIAS* FELT OTHERWISE,
AND OFFERED UP THAT WHICH BY ALL
RIGHTS WAS HIS.

HAVING BEEN GIVEN A
CHOICE FOR THE *FIRST*
TIME IN MY LIFE, I KNEW
I HAD TO DECIDE--

NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES
PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS
IN SONIC #74—EDITOR.

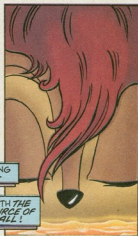
-- WHAT REALLY
MATTERED TO
ME.



AFTER A MOMENT'S
HESITATION,
I STEPPED INTO
THE POOL--



--DESCENDING
DEEPER--



--BECOMING
ONE--

--WITH THE
SOURCE OF
ALL!



IF THIS IS WHAT
YOU TRULY WISH
FOR, SALLY--

--THEN
YOU HAVE MY
UNCONDITIONAL
SUPPORT--



--NO MATTER WHAT
FATHER MAY SAY!



IT WAS MORE
BEAUTIFUL THAN
I COULD EVER
HAVE IMAGINED!

I COULD FEEL
MYSELF DRAWN
TO THE
LIGHT--

--TO MY--MOTHER?!

MY DARLING
DAUGHTER--

--I PRAY
YOU GROW UP IN
A WORLD THAT
NEVER KNOWS
ANOTHER
WAR!

OH,
MOTHER, HOW
I WISH
THAT WERE
TRUE!

I GUESS I
WASN'T THE ONLY
ONE WHO DIDN'T
REALIZE THEIR
DREAMS!

BUT NOW THE
IMAGES FADE INTO
ANOTHER!

ANOTHER MEMORY
BECOMES REALITY
BEFORE ME--

--AS I WALK THROUGH MY
FAVORITE GARDEN ALONG-
SIDE MY TEACHER!

DO YOU EVER
THINK THE WAR WILL
END, JULAYLA?

THAT ALL DEPENDS
ON WHETHER THE KING
CAN REASON WITH THE
OVERLANDERS!

BUT WHY
WOULD ANY LIVING
CREATURE WISH TO
HARM ANOTHER?



"--THE OVERLANDER BUSH
FEMURS WILL DEVOUR US!"

AND YOU
WERE RIGHT,
JULAYLA--

--MOBILUS
CAN GET
LUSLY AT
TIMES!

BUT IS
THIS WHAT
THE SOURCE
OF ALL IS
ABOUT?

RELEARNING
LESSONS OF LONG
AGO?



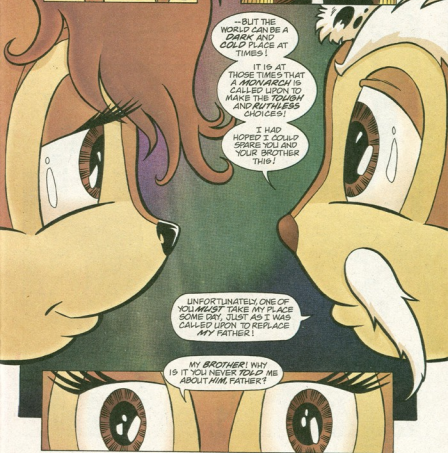


AFTER ALL, I HAD YOU
AND ROSIE AND JULAYLA
SET THE EXAMPLE!



WHAT MORE THAN
MY FAMILY DO I NEED
TO TEACH ME?

IF I HAD
MY WAY, SALLY,
LIFE WOULD
ALWAYS BE
BEAUTIFUL AND
HAPPY FOR
YOU--



--BUT THE
WORLD CAN BE A
DARK AND
COLD PLACE AT
TIMES!

IT IS AT
THOSE TIMES THAT
A MONARCH IS
CALLED UPON TO
MAKE THE TOUGH
AND RUTHLESS
CHOICES!

I HAD
HOPED I COULD
SPARE YOU AND
YOUR BROTHER
THIS!

UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF
YOU *MUST* TAKE MY PLACE
SOME DAY, JUST AS I WAS
CALLED UPON TO REPLACE
MY FATHER!



MY BROTHER! WHY
IS IT YOU NEVER TOLD ME
ABOUT HIM, FATHER?

BECAUSE HE *COULDN'T*, SALLY!

HE
DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT BECAME
OF MOTHER
AND I--

--SO HE
BELIEVED
ANYTHING HE
SAID WOULD
ONLY *HURT*
YOU!

SINCE
YOU WERE THE
ONLY
FAMILY HE HAD
LEFT--

--*PROTECTING* YOU
FROM EVERYTHING WAS ALWAYS
HIS *FIRST PRIORITY*!

WHETHER OR NOT
WE *AGREE* WITH OUR
FATHER'S DECISIONS--

--HIS LOVE FOR US IS
UNQUESTIONABLE!

KNOWING WHAT YOU
KNOW, IF YOU WERE IN
FATHER'S SHOES AND LOST
YOUR WIFE AND SON, WOULD YOU
DO THE SAME AS HE DID?

LIFE IS
NOT A *MATH*
EQUATION,
SALLY!

GIVE SEVEN
INDIVIDUALS THE
SAME SITUATION,
AND YOU'LL GET
SEVEN DIFFERENT
RESPONSES!

THE *BEST*
ONES, THOUGH,
COME FROM THE
HEART!

WHEN YOU
HAVE TO MAKE
A *DIFFICULT*
DECISION, DOES
THAT MEAN
YOU CARE ANY
LESS?



I SUPPOSE NOT.

AND NEITHER DOES OUR FATHER.



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THAT MY FATHER IS ALWAYS RIGHT?



YOUR FATHER IS *ONE* WITH THE *SOURCE*, FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF EACH ACTION HE TAKES!

!GASP!
THAT'S--THAT'S ME AS THE QUEEN!

NOTHING THAT ONE WHO IS BOUND WITH THE *SOURCE* DOES IS EVER DONE LIGHTLY!

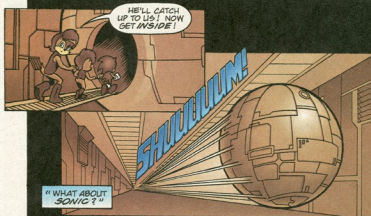


ARE YOU SAYING MY FATHER IS AWARE OF THINGS TO COME?

AS YOU WOULD BE-- SHOULD YOU COMPLETE THE CYCLE!

BEHOLD--
MOBILIS-- ALMOST TWENTY YEARS LATER...





HE'LL CATCH
UP TO US! NOW
GET INSIDE!

SHUUUUUUUM!

"WHAT ABOUT
SONIC?"



YOU HAVEN'T
COMPLETED THE
CYCLE, CHILD!

YOU EITHER
SEE IT THROUGH OR
FOREVER FORFEIT
YOUR BIRTHRIGHT!



YOU MEAN
IT'S ALL OR
NOTHING?

THAT IS
CORRECT.



I
GUESS THINGS
WEREN'T
MEANT TO BE,
THEN!

I'M NOT
SURE I WANT TO
KNOW EVERYTHING
IN ORDER TO BE
QUEEN!

YOU REALIZE
THAT ONCE YOU MAKE
YOUR DECISION--

--THERE'S
NO TURNING
BACK?





IT'S STILL
NOT TOO LATE,
HERSH!

YOU CAN TAKE
POINT WHILE I GO
CRAWLING AROUND
THE *DRAGON'S*
DEN INSTEAD!

I *CAN* DO THIS,
COMMANDER!

GETTING THROUGH
THE *DUCTWORK* WILL
BE A LOT *SMOOTHER*
FOR ME THAN YOU!

BESIDES, YOU
WON'T BE ABLE TO
SUPERVISE US ON
EVERY MISSION!

SOONER OR LATER, YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO ORDER US
TO GO.

HERSHEY SOLO





ESPECIALLY
THE EGG
MAN'S!

PROBABLY DUMB
LUCK HE DIDN'T
HEAR ME LAND!

AND SPEAK OF
THE DEVIL --

-- HE'S THE MAJOR
OBSTACLE STANDING
BETWEEN ME AND THE
MISSION OBJECTIVE!



IT'S GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN, GENERAL
D'COULETTE!

I TRUST
EVERYTHING IS
BACK TO
STATUS QUO?

NOT
QUITE,
SIR!

I'LL HAVE
REINFORCEMENTS
DISPATCHED
IMMEDIATELY!

A CERTAIN
RADICAL IS
DOING HIS BEST
TO FRUSTRATE
US!

I NEED A
DISTRACTION TO
LURE HIM AWAY
FROM THERE!

COMMANDER, I
COULD REALLY
GO FOR A
SUCKER RIGHT
ABOUT NOW!

READ YOU LOUD AND
CLEAR,
HERSH!

GET
READY!

Ka-BOOM!

SO THE
RODENTS ARE
GETTING *FRISKY*,
ARE THEY?

**DELTA TWO
AND NINE!**

ROGER!

WILCO!

THAT SURE
DID THE TRICK
-- NOT!

SO
WHAT
NOW?

WHAT IF THE
THREAT WERE
MORE --
LOCAL?

TAKE A
SQUADRON OF
SHADOWBOTS AND
GO PUT OUT THE
FIRE!

AND SHOULD
YOU *ENCOUNTER*
THAT WRETCHED
HEDGEHOG
SONIC --

-- BRING
HIM TO
ME!

HVVVVV...



-- BOTH
FIGURATIVELY AND
LITERALLY!

WITH THE
PRESS OF A
BUTTON, THE
HAND MINE
IS SET --

-- AND ON
ITS WAY!

I JUST HAVE
TO CROSS MY
FINGERS THIS
PLAN DOESN'T
BLOW UP IN
MY FACE --



WHAT'S
THAT?

COULD IT BE THE
RODENTS ARE FAR
BOLDER THAN I FIRST
THOUGHT?

IF THAT'S
THE CASE --

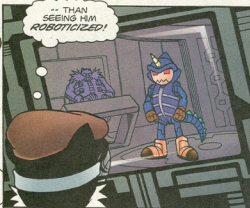


-- THIS MAY
WARRANT
MY CLOSE,
PERSONAL
ATTENTION!



I'M IN LUCK! HE
DIDN'T ACTIVATE THE
SECURITY CODES!

NOW ACCESSING
THE DATABASE
IN REGARDS TO
VALDEZ AND --



LUPE AND THE WOLF PACK FAMILY

SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE WESTERN FLATS...

RETURNING HOME MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE WISEST OF CHOICES, SENORITA!

ALL THAT REMAIN ARE THE DEVASTATED RUINS OF OUR ONCE PROUD CITY FROM THE DESPICABLE ROBOTNIK!

BE THAT AS IT MAY, REYNARD--

--WHILE WE MAY NOT FIND OUR LOVED ONES HERE--

--THERE'S ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING OUT WHERE THEY'VE GONE!





AS MUCH AS I WANT TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE--

--I CAN'T SEE A THING THAT GIVES ME HOPE!

DIABLO MAY HAVE A POINT, LUPE--



-- THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT FOR US TO FIND!

DON'T EVEN THINK IT, CANUS!



WE CAN PRESS ON WITH OUR SEARCH, SENORITA--

-- BUT I, TOO, AM BEGINNING TO FEEL IT WILL ALL BE IN VAIN !



I CAN'T BLAME ANY OF YOU FOR FEELING THE WAY YOU DO!

BUT I KNOW LOBO--

--AND I KNOW HE WOULD NEVER GO WITHOUT LEAVING BEHIND SOME SIGN FOR ME!



FWOOOOSH!



BTUUM! GAS!

EVERYBODY!! HOLD--YOUR-NOSE...



WHERE
THE HECK
ARE WE?

SOME
PLACE WHERE
THE
PLUMBING IS
IN DESPERATE
NEED OF
REPAIR WOULD
BE MY FIRST
GUESS!

WHILE I CAN
APPRECIATE THE NEED
FOR LEVITY AT A TIME
LIKE THIS, I THINK WE'RE
HAVING COMPANY!

THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
METAL
CLANGING ALONG
THE CONCRETE
FLOOR!

A
SWATBOT,
PERHAPS?

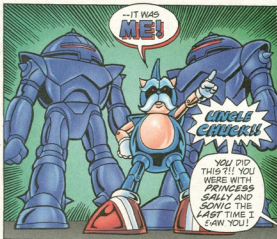
THEY'RE
NOT
SWAT-
BOTS!!

IT'S LOBO!!
AND
MARCOS
AND MARIA
-- MY
CHILDREN!!!

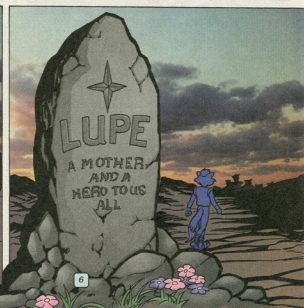
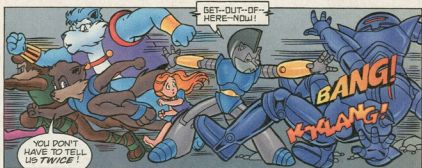
WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHO DID
THIS TO
YOU?!!

I THOUGHT IT
OBVIOUS
AS TO WHAT
HAPPENED!

AS FOR
WHO--







BUNNIE RAB-BOT

-IN- UPGRADE

HER
LIFE SIGNS
ARE FINALLY
STABILIZING,
DOCTOR!

RESPIRATION, HEART-
BEAT AND BRAINWAVES ARE
JUST ABOUT **NOMINAL** FOR
SOMEONE IN HER STATE!

YEAH, BUT HER
METABOLISM
IS STILL
HAYWIRE!

HER **BIONICS**
AND **NERVOUS**
SYSTEM ARE
HAVING A HECKUVA
COMPATIBILITY
GAP!

CLOSE HER
UP! WE'VE DONE
ALL WE CAN AT THE
MOMENT!

THE NEXT
DECISION--





"--IS
HERS!"

BUNNIE!!

WHAT
IS WRONG,
MA CHERIE?



SUGAR-
TWIN, I'M
--GETTING--
DIZZY--
-- CAN'T
-- HOLD
-- UH..



**MA
CHERIE!**
SHE NEEDS
A DOCTAIRE!

WHOOOM!



...AND SHE
COLLAPSED
JUST LIKE
ZAT!

WE'LL TAKE
GOOD CARE OF
HER, LAD!

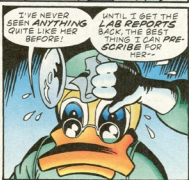
NOW JUST
HANG HERE--



--WHILE WE
PREPARE HER FOR
SURGERY!

SLAM

SURGERY?!



I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING
QUITE LIKE HER
BEFORE!

UNTIL I GET THE
LAB REPORTS
BACK, THE BEST
THING I CAN PRE-
SCRIBE FOR
HER--

"...IS
REST!"

WE CAME AS
SOON AS WE GOT
WORD, KIDDO!

YOU SAVED
US QUITE THE
SCARE!

IS THERE
ANYTHING I CAN
DO FOR YOU,
BUNNIE?

I FEEL LIKE
A DOZEN SWAT-BOTS
ALL PILED ON TOP OF
ME, PRINCESS!

BUT I'LL
BE RIGHT
FINE IN NO
TIME!

WHAT IS THIS?
MOBILUS GRAND
CENTRAL
STATION?

EVERYONE
CLEAR OUT--
EXCEPT MY
PATIENT,
NATURALLY!

DON'T LET
'IM SCARE YA,
GUYS!

HIS BARK
IS ACTUALLY WORSE
THAN HIS BEAK!

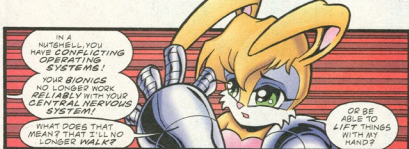
MAYBE
SO-- BUT HE
OUTRANKS
US HERE!

I'LL BE
OUTSIDE JUST
IN CASE, MA
CHERIE!

OKAY, DOC!
I'M A BIG GIRL!
GIVE IT TO ME
STRAIGHT!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME?

WHAT
HAPPENED
YOUNG
LADY?
I'M AMAZED
WHAT HAPPENED,
DIDN'T HAPPEN
LONG BEFORE
THIS!



IN A NUTSHELL, YOU HAVE **CONFLICTING OPERATING SYSTEMS!**

YOUR **BIONICS** NO LONGER WORK RELIABLY WITH YOUR **CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM!**

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THAT I'LL NO LONGER WALK?

OR BE ABLE TO LIFT THINGS WITH MY HAND?



I'M AFRAID IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, BUNNIE!

AS YOUR BIONICS CONTINUE TO **DETERIORATE**, EVENTUALLY THEY'LL SHUT DOWN AND BECOME **TOXIC** TO THE **ORGANIC** PART OF YOUR BODY!

FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL FROM THE TESTS, IT'S AS IF YOUR **BODY** WAS AT **WAR** WITH ITSELF, DETERMINED TO BE EITHER **ALL-ORGANIC** OR **ALL-ROBOTIC!**



DOES THAT MEAN I'M GOING TO--TO--

--DIE?

IF WE DO **NOTHING** THAT'S CERTAINLY A **PROBABILITY!**

SO WHAT ARE MY **OPTIONS**, DOC?

YOU ONLY HAVE THREE OTHER **ALTERNATIVES** TO CHOOSE FROM:

DISCONNECT YOUR ROBOTIC LIMBS FROM YOUR BODY, A **HARDWARE UPGRADE** WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF **EVER BEING DEROBOTICIZED...**

...OR CHANCING A **DEROBOTIZATION PROCESS**, AFTER ALL THE MODIFICATIONS, WHERE THE ODDS OF YOUR **SURVIVAL** ARE A **BILLION-TO-ONE!**



WHAT WOULD YOU DO, DOC, IF YOU WERE ME?

THAT DEPENDS ON WHICH ANSWER I COULD LIVE WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE!

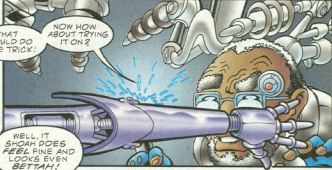


THAT'S A GOOD ONE, DOC!

I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT!



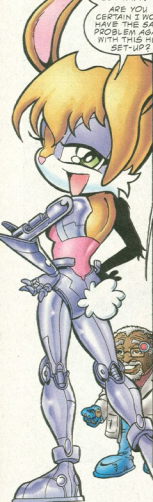




THERE!

THAT
SHOULD DO
THE TRICK!

NOW HOW
ABOUT TRYING
IT ON?



WELL, IT
SHOAH DOES
FEEL FINE AND
LOOKS EVEN
BETTAH!

ARE YOU
CERTAIN I WON'T
HAVE THE SAME
PROBLEM AGAIN
WITH THIS HEAH
SET-UP?



ABSOLUTELY!

IF YOU GIVE
ME A FEW MINUTES,
I CAN GO OVER ALL
THE TECHNICAL
DETAILS WITH
YOU!

AS LONG
AS IT WORKS,
I CAN LIVE
WITH THAT!

WATCH OUT,
WORLD--

--HERE I
COME, BETTAH
THAN EVAH!

YOU GO,
GIRL!

THE
END

PERSONAL LOG:
SKYDATE 458.9.28.
I CAN'T BEAR IT ANYMORE.
I HAVE TO KNOW.

I CAN'T GO FORWARD WITH
MY LIFE UNTIL I KNOW MY
PAST.

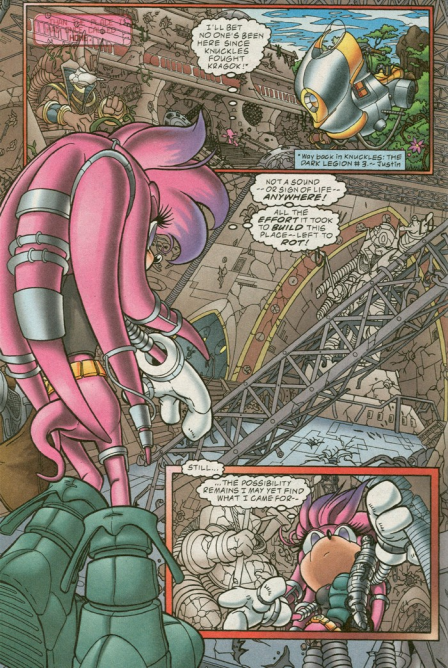
AFTER GIVING THE MATTER
MUCH THOUGHT--

MY VISOR
READOUT SHOWS
THE COMPLEX--
DEAD AHEAD!

JULIE-SU IN: SHADOWS

--I'VE DECIDED TO RETURN
TO THE LAST PLACE I EVER
EXPECTED TO VISIT...

WHERE ELSE COULD I
BEGIN MY QUEST--



THE DARK LEGION #3

I'LL BET
NO ONE'S BEEN
HERE SINCE
KNUCKLES
FOUGHT
KRAGOK!

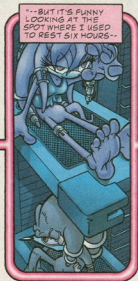
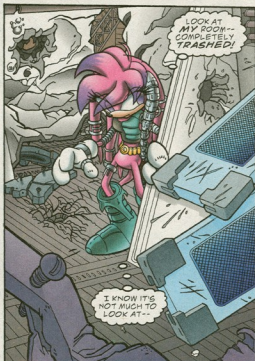
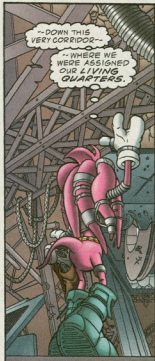
* MAY BOCK IN KNUCKLES: THE
DARK LEGION #3. ~ Justin

NOT A SOUND
--OR SIGN OF LIFE--
ANYWHERE!

ALL THE
EFFORT IT TOOK
TO BUILD THIS
PLACE--LEFT TO
ROT!

STILL...

...THE POSSIBILITY
REMAINS I MAY YET FIND
WHAT I CAME FOR--





LEGIONNAIRE
TULIE-SU REPORTING
AS ORDERED,
SIR!

TAKE OVER
AT NAVIGATION,
LEGIONNAIRE!

AS YOU
COMMAND!

"FOR SOME REASON, I ALWAYS
FELT LIKE **KRAGOK** AND
HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND, WHO
EVERYONE REFERRED TO AS
KOMMISSAR, WERE CONSTANTLY
WATCHING ME!



"WHATEVER
THEIR REASONS
FOR DOING SO, I
NEVER LEARNED..."

WE'D HAVE
BEEN BETTER
OFF IF FATHER
HAD SIMPLY
JETTISONED
HER OUT OF AN
AIRLOCK YEARS
AGO!

FHHUUUMMM

HOLD IT!
THAT SOUNDED
LIKE A DOOR
SLIDING
OPEN!

COULD SOME-
ONE ELSE BE
LURKING AROUND
AS WELL?





IT
SOUNDED
LIKE IT CAME
FROM UP
THERE--PAST
THE
ARMORY!

"I WAS OUTFITTED WITH
MY **TASER** IN THERE
JUST BEFORE KNUCKLES
HIT THE SCENE!"



CONSIDERING
I SHOULD BE THE
ONLY ONE HERE,
A **PRECAUTION**
OR TWO SHOULDN'T
HURT!



WELL,
I'LL BE--

FOOTSTEPS
COMING FROM
DOWN THIS
CORRIDOR!



NOT TO
MENTION A
LIGHT--

--COMING
FROM **IN**
THERE!



SOMEONE
IS HERE, ALL
RIGHT!

I CAN HEAR
WHOEVER IT IS
RUMMAGING
AROUND INSIDE
THAT OFFICE!



OH NO!

I
ACTIVATED
THE SECURITY
SHIELD!



WOOF!

NOTHING
LIKE GETTING
THE STUFFING
SLAMMED OUT
OF YOU!

HOLD
IT RIGHT
THERE!

WHO ARE
YOU? WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?

JULIE-SU?





YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, DO YOU, CHILD? MY NAME IS **SIMON!**

AHH, I'M NOT SURPRISED, AS I DIDN'T HAVE AS MUCH CONTACT WITH YOU AS MY DARLING **FLOREN-CA!**

KRAGOK SAW TO THAT!

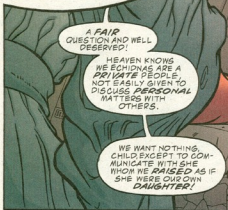
YOU KNOW ME?



EVER SINCE YOU WERE BUT AN INFANT!

ONCE WE LEARNED YOU HAD RETURNED, **FLOREN-CA** AND I WANTED TO MAKE CONTACT!

SHE MISSES YOU SO VERY MUCH, MY DEAR!



A **FAIR** QUESTION AND WELL DESERVED!

HEAVEN KNOWS WE **ECHIDNAS** ARE A **PRIVATE** PEOPLE, NOT EASILY GIVEN TO DISCUSS **PERSONAL** MATTERS WITH OTHERS.

WE WANT NOTHING, CHILD, EXCEPT TO COMMUNICATE WITH SHE WHOM WE **RAISED** AS IF SHE WERE OUR OWN **DAUGHTER!**



HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE TELLING THE **TRUTH?**

DAUGHTER?

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE MY FATHER?

NO, BUT I MIGHT AS WELL BE.

CONSIDERING THE LOT YOU WERE BORN INTO, IT'S A WONDER YOU TURNED OUT AS WELL AS YOU DID!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

MORE THAN SOME PEOPLE WISH I DID!



OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO OUR TIME MORITORI REX'S SON LUGER TOOK A BRIDE, THE FAIR MERIN-DA AND BEFORE LONG SHE BORE HIM THEIR TWIN CHILDREN, KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA...

AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL, LUGER?

THEY WILL BE WORTHY HEIRS TO DIMITRI!

"WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE ROUGHLY EIGHT YEARS OF AGE, THE PORTAL BETWEEN THE ZONE STEPPENWOLF EXILED OUR KIND TO AND THE FLOATING ISLAND OPENED UP..."

WE ARE FREE ONCE MORE, MY CHILDREN!

FREE TO RECLAIM WHAT SHOULD BE OURS!

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD PROVE MOST INHOSPITABLE TO MERIN-DA..."

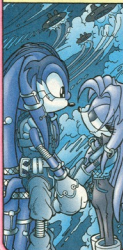
I NEED TO REST, LUGER!

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M BURNING UP!

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE DARK LEGION RETURNED WILLINGLY TO THE ZONE, BUT TO NO AVAL..."

"MERIN-DA STILL SUC-CUMBED TO WHATEVER AILED HER AND PASSED INTO THE REALM BEYOND..."

"SEVERAL YEARS WOULD PASS BEFORE LUGER RECOVERED FROM HIS LOSS, BUT WHEN HE DID, HE ALSO FOUND THE FAIR **MARI-SU**, WHO WOULD PROVE VERY MUCH TO BE EVERY BIT AS CAPABLE AS HE...



"WHILE LUGER MAY HAVE VIEWED HER AS A POTENTIAL **MATE** AND **PARTNER**, OTHERS-- MORE SPECIFICALLY **KRABOK** AND **LEIN-DA**, ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AT THIS POINT-- SAW **MARI-SU** AS A **THREAT** TO THEIR OWN AMBITIONS...



"THE **NERVE** OF **FATHER**! HE NEVER ASKED WHAT WE THOUGHT!

"IF HE WAS **DIS-PLEASED** WITH HIS CHILDREN'S REACTION LUGER NEVER BETRAYED ANY **OUTWARD** SIGNS, ESPECIALLY ON THE DAY HE TOOK **MARI-SU** TO BE HIS **WIFE**...



"I DO."

"A YEAR OR SO LATER **YOU** WERE **BORN**...

DON'T CRY, **JULIE-SU**!

DADDY WILL BE HERE AS SOON AS HE FINISHES WORK!

"I TELL YOU, MY DEAR, IT BROKE OUR HEARTS TO SEE YOU GROWING UP ESPECIALLY AS A **TODDLER**!

"THERE YOU WERE, WANTING SO BADLY TO PLAY WITH YOUR **HALF-BROTHER** AND **HALF-SISTER**--

"--ONLY TO BE **COMPLETELY** IGNORED AND **SHUNNED** BY THEM!

"JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY **WORSE** FOR YOU--

"--THAT'S WHEN MARI-SU MET WITH A TRAGIC ACCIDENT WHICH CLAIMED HER LIFE!

GOOD RIDDANCE!



"LUGER DIDN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT RAISING A CHILD, SO HE ENTRUSTED YOU INTO THE CARE OF MY WIFE FLOREN-CA...

I'M SORRY, JULIE-SU, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME!

FLOREN-CA WILL TAKE WONDERFUL CARE OF YOU!



"NOT LONG AFTER, LUGER DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

"TO THIS DAY, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, THOUGH I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS...

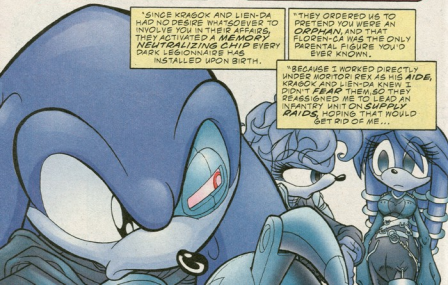
"IN ANY EVENT, THERE WASN'T ANY DISCONTENT AMONG THE RANK-AND-FILE WHEN KRAGOK SEIZED POWER SHORTLY THEREAFTER...



"SINCE KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA HAD NO DESIRE WHATSOEVER TO INVOLVE YOU IN THEIR AFFAIRS, THEY ACTIVATED A MEMORY NEUTRALIZING CHIP EVERY DARK LEGIONNAIRE HAS INSTALLED UPON BIRTH.

"THEY ORDERED US TO PRETEND YOU WERE AN ORPHAN, AND THAT FLOREN-CA WAS THE ONLY PARENTAL FIGURE YOU'D EVER KNOWN.

"BECAUSE I WORKED DIRECTLY UNDER MORITORI REX AS HIS AIDE, KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA KNEW I DIDN'T FEAR THEM, SO THEY REASSIGNED ME TO LEAD AN INFANTRY UNIT ON SUPPLY RAIDS, HOPING THAT WOULD GET RID OF ME...





EVEN THAT WASN'T ENOUGH! EVENTUALLY, THEY TOOK YOU AWAY FROM FLOREN-CA!

SHE TOOK CARE OF YOU FOR ALMOST EIGHT YEARS! AND YOU BECAME THE DAUGHTER WE NEVER HAD!

SO WHY DON'T I REMEMBER ANY OF THIS? ESPECIALLY FLOREN-CA?



WE FIGURED KRAGOK AND LIEN-DA MUST HAVE PERFORMED A MIND-WIPE ON YOU!

WHEN WE DISCOVERED YOU WERE ALIVE AND WELL, I CAME HERE TO GATHER EVIDENCE FOR YOUR BENEFIT!

IF YOU REALLY WERE WITH THE LEGION YOU'D HAVE KNOWN I WAS ALWAYS AROUND!



SHORTLY AFTER THEY'D TAKEN YOU, THE PORTAL OPENED AGAIN.

THAT'S WHEN I MADE THE DECISION TO TAKE FLOREN-CA AND SETTLE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



LET'S GO HOME, CHILD!

I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO SEE YOU!



WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

LET'S GO!

SONIC GRAMS SPECIAL



OFF PANEL By Gallagher, Manak & Harvo



Promotional illustration.
Not representative of the cover.

The upcoming "SONIC ADVENTURE" storyline on sale late November continuing well into the year 2000. It is so huge that it's taking multiple issues of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and one 48-page SONIC SUPER SPECIAL (#14) to tell the story. All that, my friends, is for the official game adaptation to "SONIC ADVENTURE!" As you know from all the commercials by now, this game can only be played on one new system: SEGA's DREAMCAST -- "the ultimate gaming machine" -- debuting on 9/9/99! This high-speed thrill ride sets Sonic loose in a fantastic new 3-D adventure at speeds of up to 60 frames per second! With breathtaking graphics, six playable characters, full 360 degree movement in expansive 3-D worlds (and even "mini-games" to discover), "SONIC ADVENTURE" shows gamers the future of videogames today, using the power of SEGA Dreamcast.

Next issue: We promised to print the Comic Shop News storyline... and here it is in a special sideways story (you'll see). Buy SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #13 on sale January 2000!

Catch you on the flip side!

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

Send letters to:

SONIC-GRAMS SPECIAL #11

c/o Archie Comics Publications, Inc. P.O. Box #419 Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

e-mail address: jffreddyg@archiecomics.com

website: www.archiecomics.com sega website: www.sega.com

First order of business... as promised in **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9** (**SONIC KIDS 2**), the following are the names of the first ten people to reply correctly to the first trivia question: "When was the first time we saw Sonic by the well?" The answer: **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG Limited Series #0**. They are:

Mary Ann Rosales
Jennifer Lantrip
Donald "Cinos" Eckels
Brian Jackowski
Kurt Jaglew
Valerie & Victoria Venture
Laura "Knuckles" Carden (age 12)
Samuel Turner (age 16)
Garrett Shumilinski
Devon S. Higley (age 15)

Thanks, True Blue Sonic Crew!

And now a special mention to the first five who answered our second trivia question: "When will Sally kick Knuckles like that again?" The answer: "MECHA MADNESS #1" They are:

Brennan E. Doud (age 13)
Jeremy Pesner
Jon-Erik Johnson
Sergio Ortiz
Chris Monteparo
Thanks to everyone who wrote in and now your letters:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just finished reading my copy of **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9**. Great job! This one is even better than **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #5**! The first story, "Zoneward Bound," was quite good. Sam Maxwell and Harvo make a great team! The artwork: awesome! The second story, "My Secret Guardian," was such a lovely story. Galan's work is always a pleasure to behold. The third and last story, "Eve of Destruction," made me sad at the end but it was great. Art Mawhinney is a very good artist. I'd love it if other Sonic fans, boys and girls, would write to me so please print my full address:

T.S.T. "Dema" (age 15)
Laugavegur 76
101 Reykjavik
ICELAND - ISLAND

Thanks, Dema, for your letter. It's great to know our international fans are enjoying America's comic book version of Sonic much like our stateside fans.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just got **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9** and it was cool! I just loved Manny Galan and Jim Amash's art. In fact, everyone who worked on it did an excellent job. Two questions: 1) Does Tails know

his father was robotized? 2) Is Sonic going to meet Dimitri? On a final note: I think Sonic and his friends kick butt! No way is he out of his prime!

Laurie Lemaire (age 16)
Haileybury, Ontario
CANADA

1) Tails knows only the generalities not the details about what happened to his parents. 2) Check out **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #12** for that one.

Dear Sonic Column,

Is there a new Sonic The Hedgehog cartoon coming out? Oh, and about SPAZI... he is the way-past coolest artist.

Cat
Catlin 117@aol.com

The new cartoon is "Sonic Underground." Those characters showed up last issue.

Well, that's all for now. Thanks to everyone who wrote in so until next issue...

Keep it real!

Cover by Patrick Spaziente and Harvey Mercadoocasio. Colors and separations by Josh D. Ray.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In one week: In the continuation of the story called "King of the Hill," Knuckles and his childhood bully, Monk, duke it out when a mysterious overlander named Hunter decides to target them both for his collection. Action and intrigue as brought to you by Ken Penders and Harvo. Also, Part Two of the 'Espio The Chameleon' solo story by Ken Penders, with art by Colleen Doran and Andrew Pepoy.



KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #31 on sale mid-Oct. 1999!

In two weeks: A new logo, a new trade dress, a new story direction! A special ceremony is conducted for our blue hero and the entire village of Knothole are out in their Sunday best for it! Look out for "A New Beginning" in the next exciting installment of **Sonic The Hedgehog**! This special story is brought to you by the talents of Karl Bollers, FRY and Andrew Pepoy. Also in this issue: The conclusion of "Tales of the Great War!"



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #78 on sale late Oct. 1999!